GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3934
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2000
MISSILE THREAT PRECEPTION
JITENDRA PRASADA;RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether while other States in India's neighbourhood had been testing ballistic missiles capable of striking Indian cities, country's slow- progressing Intermediate Range BallisticMissile (IRBM) programme has done only a single IRBMtest in the past five years as reported in the Hindustan Times dated July 18, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the only victims of missile strikes during the past half-century have been nations without the capability to hit back in the kind; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to neutralise such threats against our country?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) India's IRBM programme is progressing satisfactorily. After successful completion of technology demonstration of capability for re-entry technology, closed loop guidance and manoeuvrability required for long range missiles under programme Agni in three flights, a flight test of the longer range IRBM Agni-II was undertaken on 11th April, 1999 from a mobile launcher. Thus we have reached the point of operationalisation of longer range Agni.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government closely monitors all developments related to missile capabilities and strategic modernization programmes in the region and beyond. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security in accordance with its own assessment of threats to our security.